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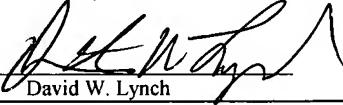
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GILL et al. Examiner: Watko, J.  
Serial No.: 10/629,535 Group Art Unit: 2653  
Filed: July 29, 2003 Docket No.: HSJ920030016US2  
(2004300-501)  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENHANCING THERMAL  
STABILITY, IMPROVING BIASING AND REDUCING DAMAGE  
FROM ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE IN SELF-PINNED ABUTTED  
JUNCTION HEADS HAVING A FIRST SELF-PINNED LAYER  
EXTENDING UNDER THE HARD BIAS LAYERS

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 6, 2006.

By:   
David W. Lynch

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 6, 2006, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and remarks below.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.